

# *The Gospel Standard Baptist Library*

Newsletter Number 16

Spring 2022

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## **Introduction**

As covid is thankfully beginning to recede, the Library is welcoming visitors again. In this Newsletter, we set out a few suggestions which may introduce the Library to those who were not previously aware of its existence, and also encourage more visiting by those who have used it in the past. At present the Library is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30, and at other times by appointment. The Library contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Our last newsletter closed with a financial appeal. We would like to sincerely thank all those who responded to the appeal and generously gave to the library. If anybody still wants to give, all donations will be gratefully received. In case you missed them, our bank details are: The Gospel Standard Baptist Library Fund, Acc. No. 00333934; SC. 30-98-74. Gift aid forms are available.

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## **Why might you visit the library?**

### **1. *Browse our collection of books***

The book collection, originally built on the personal libraries of Mr J. K. Popham and Mr S. F. Paul, is divided into twenty sections. The three most commonly used sections are biographies, children's book and sermons. We have some 1,300 biographies, a unique collection not replicated elsewhere, and over 1,000 books for children and young people. We also have around 1,000 volumes of church history, some valuable Bibles dating from the early days of printing, a sizable collections of sermons, and a very large number of magazines. Even if you have no definite thoughts as to what you might borrow, feel free to come and browse.

### **2. *Find out about the past***

Have you ever wondered about some of your ancestors, or those who began your chapel, or those buried in the graveyard next to the chapel? The Library may well have much information about them. We have a very large card index put together by the late Mr K W H Howard (pastor at Bethersden) with thousands of entries about individuals and chapels. Also a card index to magazine obituaries. These references can then be followed up by looking up the books referenced on the Library shelves.

We hold a number of original church records, or copies of old church books. We have several published church books including those for Fenstanton Chapel and the Bunyan meeting, Bedford, both of which date back to the 1600s.

The history of some chapels is fascinating. Some have their roots in days of outright persecution. From 1660-89 it was illegal to meet for worship except in the Church of England. The records of some churches, e.g. the Broadmead Church in Bristol, show how the churches prospered despite all the attempts to put them down in those days of persecution.

Many of our chapels date from the nineteenth century however, and were started

by a few poor people meeting in a cottage. You might be surprised how much information can be gleaned about those days when the Holy Spirit was pleased to shine on the churches and about some of the individuals concerned. We have copies of *The Gospel Standard* (including nearly all the old wrappers) from its start in 1835, of *The Gospel Magazine* from 1774, *The Baptist Magazine* from 1800, and *Zion's Witness*, *The Sower*, *The Gospel Banner* and *The Gospel Advocate*; all of which date from the mid-19th Century. An hour or two spent in the Library researching can uncover many interesting matters.

### **3. Purchase some books**

The Library has nearly 2,000 surplus books for sale. These are books of which we already have copies in the Library, and have been donated, usually when the owner died. We are now putting out a list every two months to people signed up to our emailing list, but with only a selection of what is on offer. To look at the whole collection requires a visit. Prices are lower than elsewhere, and the proceeds support the Library. If you would like to be added to the emailing list, please do let us know. If you have a wants list of books or old magazines to complete your sets, please do let us have them.

### **4. Discover some rare or interesting item**

Our collection of books stretches back to books printed in the 1500s, and comes right up to the present day. That means we hold 500 years of printing history.

The Library has books bearing the marks of many well-known godly ministers of the past. There cannot be many places where it is possible to hold books that have belonged to, and been marked by, men such as John Kershaw, J. C. Philpot, William Wilberforce, J. K. Popham amongst many others.

There are also some exquisite examples of the bookbinder's trade—beautiful leather bound volumes, with gold gauffered page edges, and some very colourful marbled papers to be located on the old book covers. One volume has wooden covers made from the door at Elstow church, where Bunyan worshipped!

Some of the books in the library are the only known copies in the world. Especially rare are many of the interesting array of pamphlets at the Library.

### **5. Seek some first aid for an old book**

If you would like some free advice on the repair of any book you particularly treasure, we may be able to help. If you have book binding skills yourself and would be interested in helping with the care of our collections, please do get in contact.

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## **Some New and Noteworthy Books**

The Library has recently purchased a whole series of short biographies (up to 80 pages) of Scottish Covenanters, which we hope will make profitable reading for all age groups, but especially teenagers. The books are attractively produced and cover the lives of Alexander Henderson by K. D. Macleod, John Kidd and John King by M. Grant, Samuel Rutherford by N. M. Ross, Alexander Shields by M. A. Vogan, George Gillespie by the late H. M. Cartwright and Alexander Peden by M. Grant.



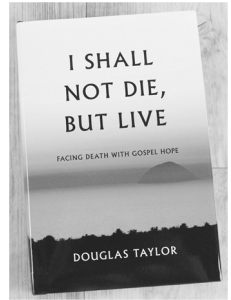
George Gillespie

Several other books on the Scottish Covenanters have been acquired—Maurice Grant’s book on James Renwick, *Preacher to the Remnant*, completes his supplements his *Lion of the Covenant* (Richard Cameron) and *No King but Christ* (Donald Cargill). We have also purchased J. King Hewison’s *The Covenanters*, two very attractively produced and well illustrated volumes.

*I Shall Not Die But Live* by Douglas Taylor is a compilation of short meditations by a godly man who died of cancer recently. It is very profitable reading and the short nature of the pieces makes it suitable for those who have little time to read or want a daily portion book.

For those looking for short pieces to read, the Library has just acquired another set of *Witnesses of the Truth*, five volumes of short biographies of William Huntington, James Bourne, Bernard Gilpin and those who attended their ministries.

An unusual little book: *Small Sins* by A. B. Grosart is searching reading, based on a communion sermon on the words: “Take us the foxes...” While two volumes of sermons: *From the Mouth of Lions*, sermons on Daniel by Hugh M. Cartwright and *Seeking a Better Country*, sermons on Hebrews 11 by Donald MacLean, give much instruction and encouragement pertinent to the pilgrim life in our times.



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## A Look at the History Section

The Library has an interesting collection of books relating to the history of the Church of Christ during the last two thousand years. In the early days of the church, it is of interest to read of the great growth and prosperity and the bitter persecutions which followed during the first two centuries.

However, perhaps the most worthwhile section relates to the Reformation. Here we have general accounts, as D’Aubigne’s *History of the Reformation*, Wylie’s *History of Protestantism*, *England’s Earliest Protestants* by William Clebish and the Parker Society volumes of *Original Letters Relating to the English Reformation*, but also several copies, including one full length in eight volumes, of *Foxe’s Acts and Monuments*. This is well worth reading, for any with the patience to do so, being a sober, eye-witness account written by a godly minister about his own times. We have individual biographies of a number of well-known and lesser known reformers including Tyndale, Latimer, Cranmer, Coverdale, Ridley and the well-written account of John Rogers by Shereton.

The Reformation in Scotland is well-represented by John Knox’s *History of the Reformation of Religion in Scotland* and McCrie’s *Story of the Scottish Church*.

John Owen, the Puritan, said this of the great revival of Christianity in these land: “I am apt to think there was not a more glorious profession for a thousand years upon the face of the earth, than among the professors of the last age in this nation. God was with them; and they lived to His glory, and died in peace: ‘whose faith follow’ and example pursue.” How much do we know of these men and women?

The next section (‘Oe’ in the catalogue) is little known but from it we can trace the roots of our present religious and civil liberties. This section covers the struggles of the puritans and nonconformists from the reign of Charles I through the times of

the civil war and Oliver Cromwell's setting up of toleration, and the persecutions which followed up to the Glorious Revolution and eventually the Toleration Act 1689. J. C. Philpot, wrote a powerful tribute to our nonconformist forebears: "Our Puritan ancestors were mighty in the things of God... We who are sitting under our own vine and fig tree none making us afraid, are little aware of the debt of gratitude which we owe to these defenders of civil and religious liberty—trial by jury, a free press, Parliament as chief law-making body, life and liberty respected, and above all that we can quietly and peaceably worship God according to the dictates of conscience—we owe to the Puritans."

In this section, we have Joseph Cornish's *History of Religion in England from the Reformation to the Glorious Revolution*, Macauley's well-written *History of England* and Daniel Neal's classic *History of the Puritans*. In previous generations these were well-known and well-respected books, as was the six volume *History of my Times* by Gilbert Burnett and Marsden's books: *The Early* and *Later Puritans*. In this section we have multiple lives of Oliver Cromwell and John Bunyan but also of Heywood, Owen, Baxter and Milton among others who had to walk out the profession of their religion in days of real opposition before the Toleration Act.

Even in the early 19th century in the *Works* of William Gadsby, we find him defending the Toleration Act against the strident demands of Church of England clergy and leaders for its repeal.

For young people we would especially recommend S. M. Houghton's book: *Sketches of Church History*—which is a well illustrated and attractively presented survey of church history from the earliest days to the present.

A browse through the Library catalogue will throw up many interesting titles in these sections which will well repay any interested reader.

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## New Email address

Please note that the library now has a new email address:

**[gospelstandardlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:gospelstandardlibrary@gmail.com)**

## How to Use the Library

**Borrowing Books:** To borrow any of the books mentioned in this newsletter, you do not have to visit the Library, or become a subscriber. Simply phone or email the librarian (contact details below) with the book title you wish to borrow and your address. The book will be posted to you free of charge. Return postage is paid and you have three months to read the book. Similarly, you can borrow any book from the catalogue (except those marked as being in the reserved collection); the catalogue is available on the website.

**Surplus Books:** The Library regularly receives books surplus to requirements and these are sold to raise money for the maintenance and expansion of the Library's collection and general upkeep. A catalogue is regularly produced.

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